

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Isolated nucleic acid fragment, encoding a protein capable of binding to the AT2 receptor, which fragment is selected from the group consisting of the sequences SEQ ID NO:1, 3, [[5,]] 7 and 9.

2. (Currently Amended) Probe or primer, wherein it comprises from 20 to 400 bp of Fragment of one of the sequences according to Claim 1, comprising between 20 and 400 bp, useful as probes or as primers, for the detection of the sequences of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 5, 7 or 9, or of homologous sequences to the complementary sequences of said sequences.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Fragment according to Claim 2 or Claim 3,~~ characterized in that it is selected from the group consisting of the sequences SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:11 and SEQ ID NO:12.

5. (Original) Transcripts, characterized in that they are complementary to the sequences according to Claim 1.

6 – 8 (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) Recombinant, cloning and/or expression vector, characterized in that it comprises a nucleotide sequence according to Claim 1 or sequence SEQ ID NO:5.

10. (Original) Transformed host cell, characterized in that it comprises a vector according to Claim 9.

11. (Currently Amended) Transformed host cells, characterized in that they consist of a suitable yeast strain cotransformed with at least two vectors which respectively encode (i) a so-called bait protein selected from the group consisting of a fragment containing at least SEQ ID NO:5 ~~of the ATIP protein according to Claim 6 or~~

Claim 7, and a fragment containing encoding a fragment of the AT2 interacting protein, and a fragment encoding at least the C-terminal end of the AT2 receptor corresponding to cytoplasmic domain of said AT2 receptor, which bait protein is fused with a protein selected from the group consisting of the DNA-binding domain of a transcription factor and the activation domain of the same transcription factor and (ii) a so-called prey protein, selected from the group consisting of a fragment containing at least SEQ ID NO:5 ~~of the ATIP protein according to Claim 6 or Claim 7,~~ a fragment containing encoding a fragment of the AT2 interacting protein, a fragment encoding at least [the] said C-terminal end of the AT2 receptor and any other polypeptide corresponding to a sequence contained in a cDNA library, which prey protein is fused with a protein selected from the group consisting of the DNA-binding domain of a transcription factor and the activation domain of the same transcription factor, which vectors comprise, in addition, selectable markers.

12. (Currently Amended) Transformed host cell according to Claim 11, characterized in that it consists of a suitable yeast strain cotransformed with three vectors which respectively encode (i) a bait corresponding to a fragment ~~containing encoding the~~ C-terminal end of the AT2 receptor corresponding to cytoplasmic domain of said AT2 receptor fused with a protein selected from the group consisting of the DNA-binding domain of a transcription factor and the activation domain of the said transcription factor, (ii) a fragment containing at least SEQ ID NO:5 ~~of the ATIP protein according to Claim 6 or Claim 7~~ encoding a fragment of the AT2 interacting protein, fused with a protein selected from the group consisting of the DNA-binding domain of a transcription factor and the activation domain of the said transcription factor and (iii) a polypeptide corresponding to a sequence contained in a cDNA library, which vectors comprise, in addition, selectable markers.

13. (Currently Amended) Transformed host cell according to Claim 11, characterized in that it consists of a suitable yeast strain cotransformed with two vectors which respectively encode (i) a fragment containing at least the sequence SEQ ID NO:5

~~of the ATIP protein according to Claim 6 or Claim 7~~ encoding a fragment of the AT2 interacting protein, fused with a protein selected from the group consisting of the DNA-binding domain of a transcription factor and the activation domain of the said transcription factor and (ii) a polypeptide corresponding to a sequence contained in a cDNA library, fused with a protein selected from the group consisting of the DNA-binding domain of a transcription factor and the activation domain of the said transcription factor, which vectors comprise, in addition, selectable markers.

14. (Currently Amended) Transformed host cell according to Claim 11, characterized in that it consists of a suitable yeast strain cotransformed with two vectors, namely (i) a vector encoding a fragment containing at least the SEQ ID NO:5 ~~of the ATIP protein sequence according to Claim 6~~ encoding a fragment of the AT2 interacting protein, mutated or not, fused with a protein selected from the group consisting of the DNA-binding domain of a transcription factor and the activation domain of the said transcription factor and (ii) a vector encoding a fragment containing the C-terminal end of the AT2 receptor corresponding to positions 314-363 of said AT2 receptor, mutated or not, fused with a protein selected from the group consisting of the DNA-binding domain of a transcription factor and the activation domain of the said transcription factor, which vectors comprise, in addition, selectable markers, one of the two vectors necessarily encoding a mutated protein.

15 – 20 (Cancelled )

21. (New) Method of detection of nucleic acid molecule encoding a protein of the ATIP family, comprising:

- extracting total RNA from a biological sample,
- obtaining the corresponding cDNA,
- amplifying said cDNA with a pair of primers as defined in Claim 2,
- hybridizing said amplified cDNA with a probe as defined in Claim 2 under the following hybridization conditions: prehybridization and hybridization in 45% formamide, 9% dextran sulphate, 0.2% BSA, 0.2% polyvinylpyrrolidone, 0.2% Ficoll,

0.1% sodium pyrophosphate, 0.01% SDS, 0.05 mM Tris pH 7.5, 0.9 M NaCl and rinses to stringency: 1 x SSC, 0.1% SDS.